

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated October 3, 2006 containing a Species Election Requirement, Applicant hereby elects Species D (claims 8-10, 12 and 13); (generic claim 3), directed to a hybrid fusion polypeptide that comprises, in pertinent part, six immunogenic amino terminal polypeptides of Group A streptococcal M protein from at least six Group A streptococcal M serotypes, for examination at this time. The Examiner also requires that if Species D is elected, one of the Group A streptococcal serotypes 2, 11, 13, 22, or 28 must be elected. Accordingly, Applicant hereby elects Group A streptococcal serotype M2. Applicant reserves the right to rejoin all combinations of the particular elected subcombination of species once the elected subject matter is found allowable.

Claims 1-27 are currently pending. Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 5, and 10 to point out with greater particularity and to claim distinctly certain embodiments of Applicant's claimed invention. No new matter has been added. Support for the amended claims may be found throughout the application, for example, at page 2, lines 14-24; page 3, lines 3-6; and page 5, lines 19-20.

Consideration of the elected subject matter is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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